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MATTERS REQUIRING ACTION BY THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

REVIEW OF THE REPORT OF THE GLOBAL MECHANISM ON ITS ACTIVITIES, AND THE PROVISION OF GUIDANCE TO IT

Note by the secretariat

Memorandum of understanding

1. In its decision 24/COP.1, paragraph 3, the Conference of the Parties (COP) requested the secretariat, in consultation with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), as well as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank, to develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the COP and the appropriate body or organization on the Global Mechanism (GM) for consideration and adoption at the second session of the COP.

2. The COP also asked the secretariat and IFAD, in consultation with the UNDP and the World Bank, in developing such MOU, to take fully into account document ICCD/COP(1)/5 and other related documents, including ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.1 and to address, *inter alia*, the following:

(a) The separate identity of the Global Mechanism within the housing organization;

(b) The measures to be taken to assure full accountability and full reporting to the COP;

(c) The field office support available for Global Mechanism activities;

(d) The administrative infrastructure available to support the Global Mechanism; and

(e) Arrangements for the handling of resources made available for Global Mechanism functioning and activities.

3. The COP will have before it, for consideration and adoption, the Memorandum of Understanding contained in document ICCD/COP(2)/4/Add.1.

Reports of the organization housing the Global Mechanism

4. The COP will hear and consider a report from the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism, on behalf of the President of IFAD, in accordance with the reporting requirements in the Convention, COP decisions 24/COP.1 and 25/COP.1, and the MOU. The statement of the Managing Director, copies of which will be distributed to the Parties, will include:

(a) The operations and activities of the Global Mechanism in 1998 and as planned for 1999, including the effectiveness of its activities in promoting the mobilization and channelling of the substantial financial resources to affected developing country Parties;

(b) The assessment of future availability of funds for implementation of the Convention, as well as assessment and proposals for effective ways and means of providing such funds;

(c) The activities of collaborating institutions and other organizations in support of the Global Mechanism;

(d) Modalities regarding collaboration between the Global Mechanism and the community of non-governmental organizations as well as collaboration with other interested organizations, including the private sector; and

(e) The nature of the review of the Global Mechanism's policies, operational modalities and activities to take place at the third session of the COP in accordance with article 21, paragraph 7 of the Convention.

Arrangements for liaison and cooperation

5. At its first session, the COP in decision 24/COP.1, paragraph 5, also requested IFAD and the secretariat to work out appropriate arrangements for liaison and cooperation between the secretariat and the Global Mechanism, to avoid duplication and to enhance the effectiveness of Convention implementation. Discussions of these arrangements are under way.

Collaborative institutional arrangements

6. By its decision 25/COP.1, paragraph 3, the COP urged IFAD, UNDP and the World Bank to proceed with collaborative institutional arrangements for the Global Mechanism as reflected in document ICCD/COP(1)/CRP.1, including the establishment of a facilitation committee, and requested the three institutions to actively pursue and develop further those arrangements and report to the second session of the COP. IFAD, UNDP and the World Bank will report jointly on such collaborative arrangements. Copies of this statement will also be available to Parties following normal COP practice.